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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

22.11.2011

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PRESS RELEASE

Career Center Opens in Strumica Vocational Secondary School

The USAID Youth Employability Skills (YES) Network today opened a Career Center in the Nikola Karev Vocational Secondary School in Strumica. This is one of 11 Career Centers that USAID is helping to renovate and equip in secondary schools in Strumica, Bitola and Tetovo, by providing new furniture, IT equipment, books and other resource materials.

"With these Career Centers, our main goal is to help young people gain the skills needed to find a job in the rapidly changing labor market in Macedonia," said USAID Mission Director Robert Wuertz. "The Centers' resources and services will help students decide on and apply for their ideal jobs, as well as learn about different career opportunities and how these relate to their knowledge, personal attributes and skills."

In the coming year, the USAID YES Network Project will support renovation and equipping of Career Centers in secondary schools in three additional municipalities. The YES Network collaborates with Employment Service Agencies, vocational and general secondary schools, and youth-focused non-governmental organizations to help students and unemployed youth through career coaching and guidance, work readiness skills trainings and work-based experiences such as internships, practical work and entrepreneurial activities. All are designed to help young people enter into the world of rewarding and productive work.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The USAID YES Network is implemented by the Education Development Center, a global nonprofit organization, headquartered in Waltham, MA and dedicated to enhancing learning and promoting health.

The American people, through USAID, have invested over \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia's transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.